



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony to the Joint Committee on Judiciary, February 13, 2013

Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & Matthew Reed, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Committee, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association submits this testimony in OPPOSITION to **S.B. 237 – An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity by the Public.**

The proposed bill provides a specific cause of action against a police officer who “interferes” with anyone taking a picture or video recording a police officer in the performance of his duties. Police officers are well aware of the right of the public to record their actions. Some well noted incidents in recent years have made it clear that officers ought not to interfere with a member of the public who chooses to record their activities. However, the misguided actions of a few officers should not drive the actions of the entire legislature.

A citizen who is offended by a police officer’s actions already has a number of remedies at his or her disposal to complain about the officer’s actions. Such remedies include a complaint to the officer’s superiors; the making of a complaint to the Chief of Police; or a cause of action in civil court for a violation of First Amendment protections.

CPCA opposes this proposed legislation and asks that the Committee take no action on the proposal.

END